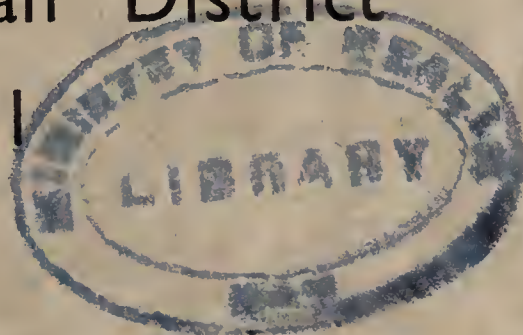


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Council



# ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year

1947

by the

Medical Officer of Health



# MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Health Report for 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1947.

### SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,956 acres
Population—Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,372
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,820
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£ <del>19,846</del>	27'188
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£106 14 0

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General :

Live Births :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ... ..	168	88	80
Illegitimate ... ..	7	4	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 27.46.

Still Births :

Legitimate ... ..	2	1	1
Illegitimate ... ..	1	1	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 16.85.

Deaths	...	...	...	73	36	37
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.45.

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30—Other Puerperal causes	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	40.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	41.66
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	11
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	1

The following table compares the main statistics for 1947 with the years 1939-46 :

	Popula- tion	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infants Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuber- culosis
1939 ...	6.202	14.67	12.24	54.9	5	3
1940 ...	6,199	13.87	13.84	58.13	12	—
1941 ...	6,435	18.18	10.72	58.82	10	1
1942 ...	6,254	20.94	10.71	53.43	7	4
1943 ...	6,097	20.82	10.82	23.62	9	1
1944 ...	6,020	21.59	12.62	38.46	12	6
1945 ...	5,926	21.26	11.47	55.55	11	2
1946 ...	6,206	21.10	9.82	22.90	8	2
1947 ...	6,372	27.46	11.45	40.00	11	3



# CAUSES OF DEATH, 1947

(Taken from Registrar-General's Tables)

	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1	3
7. Other Tubercular Diseases ...	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	—	—
9. Influenza ...	—	1	1
10. Measles ...	—	1	1
11. Ac. polio-myel. and Polio-enceph.	—	—	—
12. Ac. inf. enceph. ...	—	—	—
13. Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M.), uterus (f) ...	3	—	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
15. Cancer of Breast ...	—	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	2	5	7
17. Diabetes ...	1	—	1
18. Intr-cran. vasc. lesions ...	5	8	13
19. Heart Diseases ...	9	8	17
20. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	—	1	1
21. Bronchitis ...	1	—	1
22. Pneumonia ...	1	—	1
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	—	1	1
26. Appendicitis ...	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	—	1
28. Nephritis ...	1	—	1
29. Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis...	—	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth ...	1	3	4
32. Congenital Debility and Malforma- tions ...	—	1	1
33. Suicide ...	1	1	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents ...	—	—	—
35. Other Violent Causes ...	2	1	3
36. All other causes ...	4	3	7
Totals ...	36	37	73

## SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### (A) PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### (1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	(Services shared with the Northwich and Wins- ford Urban Districts, the Northwich Rural District and District Joint Hospital Board).
Sister I. D. ROGERSON.	Trained Nurse (Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation).	Ditto.
Clerical Staff.	2 Persons (whole-time)	Ditto.
R. L. PRICE, C.R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector.	(Middlewich Urban Dis- trict Council only).

#### (2) Laboratory Facilities.

The arrangements made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory and with the County Analyst proved adequate during the year for the examination of water, milk and ice cream supplies and pathological specimens of all descriptions.

#### (3) Ambulance Facilities.

The inhabitants of the area have shared in the benefits of the Northwich Urban service working under a Joint Ambulance Committee, and during 1947, 45 Middlewich Urban patients were removed.

#### (4) Davenham Isolation Hospital.

The Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Davenham, near Northwich, served adequately the needs of the District Council and admitted 12 Middlewich Urban patients during 1947.

#### (5)

Details of the other Health Services, *e.g.* Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, Diphtheria Immunisation, etc. provided by the Middlewich Urban District Council are recorded later in this Report.

(B) PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services : School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Vaccination, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, *e.g.* Orthopaedic, Venereal Diseases, etc., County Maternity Services are also provided in neighbouring Hospitals, *e.g.* West Park, Clatterbridge, Chester City Hospital and County Maternity Homes.

County proposals are pending to delegate to Divisional Health Committees with a view to fostering local interest in and responsibility for most of the "Personal" Health Services under the National Health Service Act. The Urban Council is likely to be adequately represented on such Divisional Committees and so the intimate knowledge of Members of local needs and conditions can be used to full advantage in the day-to-day management of such Personal Health Services.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of Serving of Notices	
		Statu- tory	In- formal	Notice complied with	Remain- ing in hand
1. Dwelling House ... ..	621	—	31	30	1
2. Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	10	—	4	4	—
3. Courts, Yards and Passages ... ..	15	—	2	2	—
4. Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	2510	—	35	35	—
5. Ashbins, Ashpits and Disposal ... ..	2448	—	20	20	—
6. House Drainage ... ..	25	—	1	1	—
7. Ditches and Watercourses ... ..	35	—	—	—	—
8. Keeping of Animals ... ..	29	—	3	3	—
9. Slaughterhouses ... ..	113	—	—	—	—
10. Inspection of Food ... ..	142	—	—	—	—
11. Piggeries ... ..	24	—	1	1	—
12. Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	75	—	2	2	—
13. Factories and Workshops ... ..	60	—	—	—	—
14. Bakehouses ... ..	43	—	1	1	—
15. Overcrowding ... ..	6	—	1	1	—
16. Canal Boats ... ..	7	—	1	1	—
17. Infectious Diseases, etc. ... ..	123	—	—	—	—
18. Miscellaneous ... ..	34	—	6	6	—
Totals ... ..	6320	—	108	107	1

## FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authori- ties           ...           ...           ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority       .   ...       ...	34	40	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)       ...       ...	—	—	—	—
Total       ...	34	40	—	—

No defects were found by the Sanitary Inspector at the 34 Factories.

## SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply.

During the year 8 samples of the Town's public supply were examined by the County Analyst and were reported upon as follows :

Date	Source	Analyst's Report
5.5.47	Main at 27 Brook Lane, Cledford	} All unsatisfactory.
5.5.47	„ „ Victoria Buildings	
6.5.47	„ „ Brook Lane, Cledford	
6.5.47	„ in Brook Lane area	
7.5.47	„ „ „ „ „	
13.5.47	„ „ „ „ „	

The above series of unsatisfactory results on investigation were found to have arisen through canal water finding its way into mains via the feed tank of one of the local Works. The valves of the tank have now been so altered that a repetition of this cannot occur. The following two samples show that the effected mains had been cleared of canal water pollution :



17.6.47	Service tap under bridge at Middlewich Salt Works	} Satisfactory.
17.6.47	Service tap at 1 Booth Lane, Cledford	

As to the availability of the supply all but four of the 1,820 houses are supplied by the Water Board's own public supply. There are no standpipes in the area.

The Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board became officially responsible for both supply and distribution on April 1st, 1947.

The Town's supply has no plumbo-solvent action, and as a safeguard against bacterial contamination chlorination is regularly applied.

### **Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

New sewers have been laid on Council's new housing sites separating surface water from sewerage.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

No conversions to the water carriage system were carried out during 1947 and the number of houses still on pails in the Urban Area totals 60. In addition there are 6 privies.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The clearance and disposal of house refuse has been carried out during the year without complaints. During the year 14 houses using 8 ashpits were converted to ashbins. A new Shelvoke and Drury freighter was put into commission during the year. Tips were kept free of vermin, well-levelled and tidy.

### **Schools.**

The number of Schools in the Urban Area is as follows :

- 1 Private (Kindergarten) School.
- 1 Modern Secondary School.
- 1 C. of E. Infants' School.
- 1 R.C. School.
- 1 County Primary School.

All Schools are well provided with adequate sanitary arrangements, wash-bowls and other facilities. The playgrounds are in good condition.

### **Common Lodging Houses, Camping Sites, Swimming Baths.**

There are none of these in the Middlewich Urban Area.

### **Destruction of Rats and Mice.**

Visits have been made to various premises including works, shops, bakehouses, waterways, tips, etc. for the baiting and poisoning of rats ; as a result some 102 dead rats have been found.

### **SECTION D—HOUSING**

The number of houses visited during the course of the year by the Sanitary Inspector was 521 and such urgent repairs as were found to be necessary were carried out.

A proportion of houses to be completed in 1948 are to be set aside by the Council for the occupants of a number of unfit houses which will be represented under the Housing Act at the appropriate time.

#### **Provision of New Houses.**

The progress made in the Council's Housing Programme during the year 1947 reads as follows :

By Local Authority—

Permanent houses	...	...	...	...	26
Temporary houses	...	...	...	...	20
Total	...	...	...	...	46

By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	6
By Private Enterprise (conversions)	...	...	...	...	2

Totals	...	...	...	...	54
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**New Sites.**—New King Street and Manor Park have been selected for the new sites.

### **SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

#### **(a) Milk Supply.**

During the year 35 samples of milk were submitted to the Laboratory for examination with the following results :

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
(1) Graded Milks for compliance with prescribed standards :		
Pasteurised Milk	22 samples	3 samples
Tuberculin-tested Milk	1 „	8 „
(2) Cleanliness tests of Un-graded Milks	...	1 sample

Wholesale producers of milk in the area during 1947 were :

Accredited Producers	...	...	...	...	3
Others	...	...	...	...	6
Total					9

There are 2 registered producer-retailers and 4 retailers only in the Area.

All dairies have been kept under supervision and found to be in a fair state of cleanliness. All have a satisfactory supply of the Town's water laid on.

**(b) Meat.**

All local butchers draw their supplies from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Sandbach.

One licensed slaughterhouse working for "casualties" has been maintained in a clean state and kept free of nuisance. During the year 10,627 lbs. of meat and bacon were condemned.

**(c) Other Foods and Ice Cream.**

The inspection and registration, where called for, of premises in which other foods, *e.g.* prepared meats, fried fish, etc. are prepared, has been conscientiously carried out during the year.

The Health Department took 2 samples of Ice Cream during the year which were submitted to the Laboratory for the new Methylene Blue Reduction Test with the following results :

Provision Grade 1—1 sample.

„ „ 4—1 sample (produced outside the Urban Area).

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of the samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1947 :

Name of Sample.					Number obtained
Cod Liver Oil Capsules	...	...	...	...	1
Epsom Salts	...	...	...	...	1
Gravy Browning	...	...	...	...	1
Herring Roes (Soft)	...	...	...	...	1
Indigestion Tablets	...	...	...	...	1

Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pudding (White)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sage (Dried)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausages (Meat)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						23

Adulterated or Non-standard Samples ... Nil

## SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, apart from Measles, was low.

One case of Poliomyelitis occurred in the area during the country-wide epidemic of the disease in 1947. This case was admitted to Davenham Isolation Hospital and was later transferred to the Clatterbridge County Hospital for Orthopaedic treatment.

### Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1947

Diseases			Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	...	...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	3	—	1
Measles	...	...	50	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	10	9	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	1	—

Seven Swabs were submitted to the Laboratory for examination and these were all found to be negative.



## (2) Tuberculosis.

The table below details the age of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

### Tuberculosis (New Cases and Mortality during 1947)

Age Periods	Respira- tory		Non- Respira- tory		Respira- tory		Non- Respira- tory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 „ ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 „ ...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 „ ...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 „ ...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 „ ...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 „ ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 „ ...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	2	1	—	1	—	—	—

### Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
39	42	46	50	60	58	48	48	43

Twenty Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 1 of which was reported on as positive.

## (3) Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1941-1947 the progress made in the Urban Area under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which was commenced jointly in 1941 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee, can be gathered from the following figures :

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Percentage of children treated between 0-4 yrs. of age inclusive ...	23.5	44.5	62.4	53.6	52.2	61.3	56.6
Percentage of children treated between 5-14 yrs. of age inclusive ...	78	84.5	83.7	82.1	86.9	86.8	85.9

The total number of children known definitely to have received protective treatment in the Middlewich Urban Area up to December, 1947 was 1,696. In addition 244 children have received " booster " injections.

The results of the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme on the prevalence of Diphtheria in the Middlewich Urban District may be gathered from the following table :

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number of Diphtheria Cases ...	35	15	6	3	1	2	—	—	—
Number of Deaths	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Children known to have had the protective treatment† ...	—	—	976	1169	1369	1484	1534	1585	1696

#### (4) Scabies and Verminous Infestation.

The arrangements made in 1942 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients worked very satisfactorily during 1947.

The steady reduction in the incidence of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following :

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Cases of Scabies ...	153	104	37	25	12	11
Cases of Pediculosis ...	6	—	1	—	1	—
Cases of Scabies and Impetigo ...	17	41	5	—	—	—
Total ...	176	145	43	25	13	11

Number of Households involved ...	76	74	29	11	9	5
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#### (5) Disinfection of Premises.

The disinfection of 17 homes was carried out during the year as follows :

For Vermin (using a D.D.T. preparation) ...	2
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding) ...	4
For Infectious Diseases ...	11

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,  
November, 1948. *Medical Officer of Health.*



